

CONGRESSMAN TODD ROKITA & INDIANA COMMUNITY LEADERS HOST

A 4th district discussion focused on school shootings and campus security

-SCHOOL SAFETY SUMMIT-

SOS: Safeguarding Our Students

2018



FORWARD BY CONGRESSMAN TODD ROKITA

This School Safety Summit- SOS: Safeguarding Our Students, was the third, and final installment of a series of school summits that brought together schools, law enforcement, community leaders, and subject matter experts to discuss how to effectively make our schools safer for students and teachers.

This report recounts the discussion of school shootings and identifies the best practices to keep our schools safe. In the wake of the school shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, and a middle school in Noblesville, Indiana, it is imperative we come together to discuss best practices to keep our children and teachers safe.

This report is a collection of ideas that were shared to bring potential solutions to our school safety plans. By design, this document should aid further conversation that needs to materialize across Indiana and the Nation.

Our panelist and moderators are true champions in our community as they passionately motivate others to create change in our school system.

Thank you to all those who participated in this summit. Your dedication to this issue will help ensure our students stay safe while receiving a quality education. I hope you find this information as a helpful resource as you explore ways to improve the safety of all Indiana students.

Todd Rokita



INTRODUCTION

In November 2018, Congressman Todd Rokita hosted a school safety summit that focused on the best practices to keep our students and teachers safe from school shootings. He convened teachers, law enforcement, principals, and community leaders with the purpose of discussing ideas and identifying solutions on how to keep our children and teachers safe in their schools. This event was the third in a series of school safety summits hosted by the Congressman. The first being in 2015 covering school safety and finding ways to create a safe environment for children to learn. The second summit was conducted in the Fall of 2017 covering opioids and cyberbullying.

This discussion was divided into 4 sections. The first three were headlined by different professionals, and the fourth segment was a chance for open questions and answers, where summit attendees were given an opportunity to join the conversation.



BEST PRACTICES

SCHOOLS NEED PRE-PLANNING ACTION PLANS

- Teachers and students need to be trained and prepared on a specific plan of what to do in the event of an "active shooter" situation.

DEVELOP WAYS TO REPORT

- Develop confidential online and personal ways for individuals to report if they see a problem.

INTERVENTION TEAMS

- All active shooters have someone "who knew." Forming intervention teams at schools to watch and help students needing special attention will help prevent a situation like this occurring.

RECOGNIZE THREATS

- School shooters do not develop overnight, and it is important to understand the warning signs. The individuals are typically withdrawn and seek recognition via extreme conduct. If these individuals have been bullied or mistreated that may seek an avenue to strike back.



NOBLESVILLE POLICE CHIEF KEVIN JOWITT

"Noblesville Middle School Shooting: Indiana's Ground Zero"

The Noblesville School System has 10,500 students that occupy 10 campuses: 7 Elementary Schools, 2 Middle Schools, and 1 High School

BACKGROUND

Middle School Shooting: Tuesday, May 25, 2018

During a 2nd period Science class, a student completed a quiz and asked to use the restroom. Upon returning to the classroom, he stopped by his locker and came with two guns: .22 Automatic and a .45 Semi-automatic.

Upon arrival to the classroom, the male student shot the teacher 3 times and a 13-year-old female student multiple times, both with the .22 Automatic.

Teacher Mike threw a basketball at the shooter to distract him and followed through with tackling the shooter to the ground.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) was in the school when the call came for assistance at 9:07:24 AM. Forty seconds later, the SRO was on the way to the classroom. The SRO arrived to the classroom one minute and 11-seconds later.

NOBLESVILLE POLICE RESPONSE

All Noblesville officers are trained in ASR and have trained in each school. Thirteen officers were on shift at the time of the shooting, 4 of which happened to be within one minute of the school when the call came in. The command post was set-up in 7 minutes. Within an hour, 200 officers from the state and surrounding area were present within an hour of the event. They were prepared as Noblesville High School received a threat within minutes of the middle school shooting.

SCHOOL PRE-PLANNING ACTIONS

Teachers are trained in the ALICE (Alert, lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) method of response. The students are prepared for emergencies. They responded to the emergency by creating barricades in their classrooms. The police department Assembly Spots were designated at the golf course and fire station where the students go for reunification.

MEDICAL TRAUMA RESPONSE

The SRO and school nurse saved the female student. The officers and nurse were trained in Gunshot Trauma Wounds and were prepared with supplies in the event that the situation occurred.

Q- "BASED ON THE SECOND THREAT TO NOBLESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL, WOULD YOU ADVISE IN THE REUNIFICATION PLAN TO NOT GO TO THE OTHER SCHOOLS?"

Police Chief Kevin Jowitt: At Noblesville, schools work best for them for two reasons: they are a late controlled area and they can place the buildings on lockdown.

Q- "HOW DO WE PREVENT AN EVENT LIKE THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN?"

Police Chief Kevin Jowitt: We have to get better at recognizing individual students. It is important that we are aware of pre-attack indicators.

DR. RICHARD HOGUE-ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE EXPERT

"Active Shooter Preparation for Indiana Schools"

THREAT ASSESSMENTS

It is important to underscore that school shooters do not develop overnight. Their actions do not happen impulsively (as often reported). These individuals typically develop over a period of time. They plan extensively, and often they plan in plain sight. Potential shooters may suffer from serious emotional issues. These individuals frequently become withdrawn and seek recognition or validation via extreme conduct. Individuals that are hazed, bullied or mistreated may seek an avenue to strike back at those they perceived to have wronged them.

PREVENTION

The development of a functional "intervention team" stands as one of the components most often left out of the "Comprehensive Safety Program." The team should include a cross section of members from the school community (i.e. students, instructions staff, parents, patrons, law enforcement, SROs, School Safety Specialists, etc).



DR. RICHARD HOGUE-ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE EXPERT

"Active Shooter Preparation for Indiana Schools"

To respond appropriately to an "active shooter" situation, individuals must be aware of their surroundings. The Department refers to this condition as being "situationally aware." You must be aware of what is going on around you in order to formulate the most appropriate "response option." The conditions, or "stimuli," of the event determine the most appropriate action to be taken in response phases of the "Non-linear ISP Model" (Escape, Lockdown, or Fight).

RESPONSE TO A SHOOTER EVENT

Taking action is critical to surviving an attack. Staying frozen in place, is not a high value strategy. Taking action is a recommended goal. The action taken may be exercised in any order:

- You may elect to "escape" to a secure location via a safe path. (Escape Option)
- You may shelter in a secure place. (Lockdown Option)
- You may as a very last option, when no other option exists, fight for your life and the lives of others in your charge. (Fight Option)



Q. "ARE THERE INDICATORS FOR THESE EVENTS OCCURRING?"

■ Dr. Richard Hogue: Someone always knows, and it's not always a teacher. There are always indicators that follow these kids over time, and the fact that we know means we can prevent. We are trying to educate not just teachers and law enforcement, but the school community. We're trying to get the word out that these are the indicators, the five or six things that are consistent over every incident.

Q. "WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE FIND THESE INDICATORS?"

■ Dr. Richard Hogue: Intervention teams. Four or five years ago, we didn't see these teams. We need to make sure that school community members are a part of the team, and we need to educate them, or else these kids will fall through the cracks. It's not 100% science, but when you look back, people know.

JASON BRAMES-AVON SCHOOLS' DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCHOOL SAFETY

"School Safety and Keeping the Community Informed"

The Avon School System has 9,600 students that occupy 12 campuses: 7 Elementary Schools, 2 Lower Middle Schools, 2 Upper Middle Schools, and 1 High School

Avon schools hosted a community forum for parents, students, and the general community at the end of July, just prior to the start of the 2018-2019 school year. The goal of the forum was to build trust. Part of the evening was devoted to allowing attendees to participate in small groups to ask questions about their concerns and to make suggestions.



The school system made the decision to require all volunteers to have an official "permanent" pass. Avon added five more school counselors this year, bringing the total to 24 for the whole school system. A confidential way of reporting was developed online: "If You See Something...Say Something." To keep individuals informed, they have a "Safety Section" in each of the corporation's monthly online newsletters.



SPEAKERS:

Dr. Richard Hogue– Hogue is an active shooter response expert. Spoke on Active Shooter Preparation in schools.

Chief Kevin Jowitt– Serves as Noblesville Police Chief. Spoke on the active shooter situation at Noblesville Middle School.

Jason Brames– Serves as Director of Technology for Avon Community School Corporation. Spoke on school safety and keeping our community informed.

RESOURCES:

IN.GOV- Unarmed Response To Active Shooter Events: Resources For Schools

<https://www.in.gov/isp/3495.htm>

FBI- Study of Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters in the United States Between 2000 and 2013

<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/pre-attack-behaviors-of-active-shooters-in-us-2000-2013.pdf/view>

Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police

https://iacop.org/_data/files/IACP_School_Safety_Recommendations_7.11.18.pdf

MODERATOR:

John Crane– Serves in Indiana State Senate. Moderated the School Safety Summit: SOS: Safeguarding Our Students.

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